## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 //091 W

-----052774 251937Z /45

R 241231Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABAB
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: EG IS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

SUBJ: MINWAR GAMASY INTERVIEW

1.IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW COMMEMORATING OCTOBER WAR (ACCORDING ISLAMIC CALENDER,, RAMADAN 10 ANNIVERSARY OF WAR, OCCURRED ON AUGUST 24 THIS YEAR), MINWAR GAMASY STATED THAT 1973 FIGHTING HAD ALTERED REGIONAL MILITARY BALANCE AND IT NO LONGER EASY MATTER FOR ISRAEL TO INITIATE ANOTHER CONFLICT. ISRAEL, HE SAID, NOW MUST CAREFULLY WEIGH COSTS OF ANY MILITARY MOVES.

2. GAMASY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS WOULD PROVE SUCCESSFUL, BUT WARNED THAT IF THEY FAIL EGYPTIAN MILITARY CAN"REALIZE ALL OF THE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR PEOPLE."

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3. MINISTER NOTED EGYPT'S SUCCESS IN CLOSING STRAITS OB BAB AL MANDEB TO ISRAELI SHIPPING DURING 1973 CONFLICT, CLAIMING THIS DEMONSTRATES THAT SECURE BORDERS ARE "MYTHICAL NOTION". HE DECLARED SHARM AL-SHEIKH OF NO STRATEGIC VALUE TO ISRAEL.

4. GAMASY CALLED UPON ARAB NATIONS TO CONFRONT CURRENT ISRAELI EFFORTS INFILTRATE AFRICA AND SAID ARABS MUST MAKE RED SEA "LAKE OF PEACE". REMAINDER GAMASY'S INTERVIEW LENGTHY EXEGESIS ON BRAVERY OF EGYPTIAN SOLDIER AND INEVITABILITY 1973 WAR GIVEN LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARDS NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

5. CHIEF OF STAFF LT. GEN. GAHMY ADDRESSED TROUPS IN SEPARATE MESSAGE ON SAME OCCASION. HE SAID LITTLE OF NOTE, BEYOND ASSERTION THAT EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES IN "HIGHEST DEGREE OF PREPAREDNESS AND ALWAYS READY FULFILL COMBAT TASKS."

6. COMMENT: GIVEN EMOTIVE NATURE OF OACCASION, PRESENTATIONS RELATIVELY MODERATE AND NON-INFLAMMATORY. NOTABLE THAT GAMSSY DID NOT REFER TO RECENT ISRAELI PROVOCATIONS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIEIS AND STRESSED DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. RENEWED FIGHTING OFFERED AS LAST RESORT. PRESS REPORTED GAMASY INTERVIW PROMINENTLY BUT WITHOUT COMMENT. IT WAS NOT LEAD ITEM IN ANY PAPER. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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